Lady Elliot Island is a coral cay located at the southern tip of the World Heritage Listed Great Barrier Reef. Situated within a highly protected ‘Green Zone’ the island is a sanctuary for over 1,200 species of marine life and is known for its abundance of manta rays, turtles, amazing array of spectacular marine life and unspoilt coral reef. The Lady Elliot Island Eco Resort is an eco certified advanced ecotourism resort that operates to educate and conserve the natural environment. This pre-conference field trip will expose Geography teachers to the Great Barrier Reef ecosystem, as well as provide a detailed study on the successes and challenges of operating a successful and innovative eco tourist resort in a heritage listed environment.

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:
• Three days and two nights at the spectacular Lady Elliot Island Eco Resort
• Exclusive access to the ‘behind the scenes’ running of the eco resort and an insight into ‘best practice’ in the development of an eco certified advanced ecotourism location.
• A whale watching cruise during peak whale season in Hervey Bay
• Presentations from marine scientists and tourism operators in the Great Barrier Reef region
• A visit to Australia Zoo, the home of Steve Irwin
• The opportunity to network with Geography teachers from all over Australia

Cost - $1400 per person

CURRICULUM LINKS:
• Year 8 AC Geography – Landforms and Landscapes
• Year 10 AC Geography – Environmental Challenges
• Senior AC Geography – Unit 1: Natural and Ecological Hazards and Unit 3: Landcover Transformations (Great Barrier Reef)
• VCE Geography – Unit 2: Tourism
• NSW HSC Geography Course – Ecosystems at Risk
ITINERARY

THURSDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER 2019
06:30........... Pick up from accommodation on the Gold Coast.
10:00........... Arrive Australia Zoo, Sunshine Coast.
14:00........... Depart Australia Zoo and travel to Hervey Bay.
18:00........... Arrive in Hervey Bay. Accommodation: The Beach Motel, Hervey Bay (twin rooms)
19:00........... Dinner on Charlton Esplanade, Hervey Bay

FRIDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER 2019
8:00.......... Breakfast at location on Charlton Esplanade, Hervey Bay
9:30.......... Presentations from Great Barrier Reef and Turtle Conservation lecturers from local university research projects. Tourism representatives from Hervey Bay region will also present, with a focus on Reef Conservation, Eco Tourism and the future impacts of Climate Change.
12:00........ Light lunch at location TBC
14:00 – 18:00 Whale Watching Tour - Whalesong Afternoon sunset cruise, including light lunch and savory platter for afternoon tea.
19:00........ Dinner at location on Charlton Esplanade, Hervey Bay

SATURDAY 28TH SEPTEMBER 2019
8:00.......... Breakfast at location on Charlton Esplanade, Hervey Bay
10:30........ Flight to Lady Elliot Island
11:15........ Arrive at Lady Elliot Island
12:00........ Buffet Lunch (included)
13:00........ Check into Eco Cabin accommodation (twin)
13:30........ Climate Change Trail and Tour – highlighting the impacts that climate change could have on a coral cay ecosystem. (Presented in partnership with the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority)
15:00 – 18:00 Free time to explore island and activities, snorkeling, scuba diving, bushwalking.
18:00........ Sunset platter and drinks on the beach
20:00........ Buffet Dinner (included)

SUNDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER 2019
8:00.......... Buffet Breakfast (included)
9:30.......... Island Discovery Tour and Behind the Scenes Tour
11:00........ Glass Bottom Boat/Guided Snorkeling Tour
13:00........ Buffet Lunch (included)
14:00 – 18:00 Free time for snorkeling, scuba diving or other island activities.
18:00........ Sunset platter and drinks on the beach
20:00........ Buffet Dinner (included)

MONDAY 30TH SEPTEMBER 2019
8:00.......... Buffet Breakfast (included)
11:30........ Flight to Hervey Bay
12:15........ Arrive Hervey Bay
13:00........ Lunch in Hervey Bay
14:00........ Depart Hervey Bay
19:00........ Arrive Gold Coast

TRIP INCLUSIONS
• Mini bus transport to and from the Gold Coast and to all locations on the pre-conference field trip.
• Four nights accommodation (including 2 nights accommodation on Lady Elliot Island)
• Entry to Australia Zoo
• Whalesong Whalewatching Cruise
• Return flights to Lady Elliot Island ex Hervey Bay
• Buffet breakfast, lunch and dinner daily on Lady Elliot Island
• Sunset platters x 2 on Lady Elliot Island
• Snorkeling equipment – mask, snorkel and fins and lesson if required.
• All guided tours on Lady Elliot Island, including the Glass Bottom Boat and guided snorkeling tour.
• Environmental Management Charge for Lady Elliot Island Eco Resort

TRIP EXCLUSIONS
• Some meals, including two breakfasts, three lunches and three dinners
• Additional costs for scuba diving equipment and wetsuit hire, and scuba dive tours (for certified divers only).